

**FLOOR SCHEDULE FOR TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2012**

HOUSE MEETS AT:	FIRST VOTE PREDICTED:	LAST VOTE PREDICTED:
<b>10:00 a.m.: Morning Hour</b> <b>12:00 p.m.: Legislative Business</b>  <b>Fifteen "One Minutes" per side</b>	<b>2:00 – 2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>2:30 – 3:00 p.m.</b>

\*\*Members are advised that today, the House is only expecting to have one vote series. Any recorded votes requested on H.R. 459, H.R. 4157 or H.R. 6082 will be postponed until tomorrow.

**H.Res. 738 – Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 6082 – Replace President Obama's Responsible Job-Creating Drilling Plan with Another Big-Oil Giveaway bill (Rep. Hastings (WA) - Natural Resources) and H.R. 4078 – Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Job Creation Act (Rep. Griffin – Oversight and Government Reform/Judiciary) (One Hour of Debate).** The Rules committee has recommended one Rule which provides for consideration of H.R. 6082 and H.R. 4078.

For H.R. 6082, the Rules Committee has recommended a structured Rule that provides for one hour of general debate equally divided between the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The Rule allows 8 amendments debatable for 10 minutes equally divided between the offeror and an opponent. It allows one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. It also waives all points of order against the legislation.

For H.R. 4078, the Rules Committee has recommended a structured Rule that provides for two hours of general debate equally divided between the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Judiciary and the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Rule allows 25 amendments debatable for 10 minutes equally divided between the offeror and an opponent. It allows one motion to recommit, with or without instructions and it also waives all points of order against the legislation.

Despite repeated promises of openness by the Republican Majority, the Rules committee rejected dozens of amendments offered by Democratic Members, including amendments offered by Ranking Members of the committees on Energy and Commerce, Oversight and Government Reform, and Natural Resources. The Republican Majority also rejected a motion by Ms. Slaughter to consider H.R. 6082 and H.R. 4078 under an open Rule.

**Begin Consideration of H.R. 6082 – Replace President Obama's Responsible Job-Creating Drilling Plan with Another Big-Oil Giveaway bill (Rep. Hastings (WA) - Natural Resources)**

H.R. 6082 replaces the Interior Department's current five-year offshore leasing plan and makes 29 offshore areas available for sale, up from the current 15. The measure revives several lease sales proposed four days prior to the end of the Bush Administration in the same week that the Republicans are seeking to limit so-called "midnight regulations." It modifies the NEPA review process as it applies to leases added to the five-year plan, and it includes provisions for initiating additional lease sales near South Carolina and to account for defense activities near the Virginia coast. The bill ignores the fact that President Obama's offshore drilling plan already makes more than 75% of the offshore oil and gas resources available for drilling. The measure forces drilling off the East and West Coasts and in Bristol Bay off of Alaska while limiting proper environmental review.

H.R. 6082 is the eleventh bill reported out of the Natural Resources Committee in the last 18 months, intended to open up nearly every piece of our public lands to drilling. Instead of working to finish extending middle class tax relief for all middle class Americans, or working to help America's farmers, the House will have spent over 100 hours of Floor time on 11 separate drilling bills over the last 18 months. The Republican leadership continues to waste valuable Floor time on political votes that have no chance of becoming law.

The Rule makes in order 8 amendments, each debatable for 10 minutes, equally divided between the offeror and an opponent. The amendments are:

**Rep. Hastings (WA) Manager's Amendment.** Would make technical corrections to the underlying bill

**Rep. Holt Amendment #2.** Would strike the provision that requires the Secretary of Interior to conduct a single multi-sale environmental impact statement for all of the new areas opened for drilling by the underlying bill

**Rep. Richardson Amendment.** Would add a new section that provides that in determining the areas off the coast of California to be made available for leasing under this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall consult with the Governor and Legislature of the state of California

**Rep. Markey Amendment #4.** Would prohibit natural gas produced under new leases authorized by this legislation from being exported to foreign countries

**Rep. Markey Amendment #5.** Would create a statutory requirement that new leases offered pursuant to this Act require drilling safety improvements in response to the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster

**Rep. Holt Amendment #6.** Would end royalty free drilling in the Gulf of Mexico by requiring oil companies to pay in order to receive new leases on public lands

**Rep. Hastings (FL) Amendment #7.** Would require each drilling permit application to include an estimate of how much the price of gasoline will decrease as a result of any oil or natural gas found under the permit

**Rep. Hastings (FL) Amendment #8.** Would require each drilling permit application to estimate the amount of oil or natural gas that is expected to be recovered under the permit and the likely global climate change that will result from the consumption of those commodities

**Bill Text for H.R. 6082:**

[HTML Version](#)

[PDF Version](#)

**Background for H.R. 6082:**

[House Report \(HTML Version\)](#)

[House Report \(PDF Version\)](#)

**Suspensions (3 bills)**

- 1) **[H.R. 5986](#)** – **To amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to extend the third-country fabric program and to add South Sudan to the list of countries eligible for designation under that Act, to make technical corrections to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States relating to the textile and apparel rules of origin for the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement, to approve the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes (Rep. Camp – Ways and Means)**
- 2) **[H.R. 459](#)** – **Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2012 (Rep. Paul – Oversight and Government Reform/Financial Services)** - This bill directs the GAO to complete an audit of the monetary policy deliberations, actions, and related matters taken by the Federal Reserve System before the end of 2012, followed by a detailed report to Congress. The bill would also repeal existing restrictions on the GAO's authority to perform audits of Federal Reserve monetary policy activities. Like all other major central banks around the world, the Federal Reserve is an independent central bank, and its monetary policy actions are not subject to approval by the Administration or Congress. While Congress has set out the policy goals the Federal Reserve is to pursue - maximum employment and price stability - the ability of the Federal Reserve to pursue monetary policy independent of political influence is critical to its ability to fulfill its dual mandate. Moreover, Congress already conducts regular and robust oversight of the Federal Reserve and actually expanded GAO's audit authority two years ago in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. It expanded the types of audits GAO may conduct of the Federal Reserve, as well as the data that must be disclosed to the public. The Federal Reserve's financial accounts have long been subject to audit both by the GAO and an outside, independent audit firm. This bill impedes the independence of this critical institution. In order for the Federal Reserve to do its job effectively, it should not be subject to short-term political pressures. The experience during debate on the debt ceiling last summer should demonstrate to the American public that House Republicans cannot be allowed to hold our economy or our critical economic institutions hostage in order to further their extreme agenda. **Members are urged to VOTE NO.**
- 3) **[H.R. 4157](#)** – **Preserving America's Family Farms Act, as amended (Rep. Latham – Education and the Workforce)**

**TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK**

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule for Wednesday, July 25: The House will meet at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business. The House may consider H.R. \_\_\_\_ - President Obama's Proposed 2012-2017 Offshore Drilling Lease Sale Plan Act (Rep. Hastings (WA) – Natural Resources) – under suspension of the Rules. The House is also expected to complete consideration of H.R. 6082 – Replace President Obama's Responsible Job-Creating Drilling Plan with Another Big-Oil Giveaway bill (Rep. Hastings (WA) - Natural Resources) and begin consideration of H.R. 4078 – Red Tape Reduction Act (Rep. Griffin – Oversight and Government Reform/Judiciary).

## The Daily Quote

"If one wants to fully appreciate the stranglehold the right wing has on the Republican Congressional agenda and its attendant dangers, one need look no further than the bill the House plans to consider [this] week, which would shut down the entire regulatory system. I wish that description were hyperbole, but it is not; indeed, it would be difficult to exaggerate the sweep and destructiveness of the House bill. The measure (H.R. 4078) would impose a moratorium on the issuance of any and all major new regulations for the foreseeable future except in the case of narrowly defined emergencies (and even those emergency designations could be challenged in court)... The bill prohibits not just the issuance of new standards and safeguards but any action that 'is expected to lead to' their being proposed. The legislation might as well just directly order the agencies that were created to protect the public to close up shop (except for enforcement actions) for the next few years. Unhappy that it has been unable to provoke a government shutdown over spending battles or a default on the nation's debt, the right wing has now come up with a more subtle way to make sure the government can't do its job. And what should be seen as a strikingly outlandish proposal is instead being treated by the House as a marquee bill."

- Former Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), The Hill, 7/18/12